



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Engineer Research and
Development Center

Strategies for Managing Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

Description

ERDC's Environmental Laboratory (EL) provides expertise on restoring and managing **threatened, endangered, and sensitive species (TES)**. Services are available on a reimbursable basis to land managers and resource managers at Civil Works water resources projects and Department of Defense (DOD) military installations nationwide.



Capabilities

Current emphasis is on habitat restoration and management strategies for high-profile species and development of analytical methods to determine the suitability of various habitat types for a diversity of sensitive species. Specific techniques are being developed to assess impacts of various Civil Works and military activities and land use practices on TES and to improve existing habitat for protected species. Recent studies have focused on species inventories and habitat restoration/management for endangered bats, neotropical songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, turtles, mussels, and freshwater fishes.

Supporting Technology

- The Ecosystem Management and Restoration Information System (EMRIS); <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/emrrp/emris/emrishelp.htm>.
- The EXpert Habitat Evaluation Procedures (EXHEP) program is an automated means of conducting habitat evaluation analyses in an electronic environment. Information on EXHEP can be found at: <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/emrrp/tools/exhep.html>.
- The Wildlife Information Management System (WIMS), a Windows-based, user-friendly, data management system designed to automate the entry and analysis (descriptive and graphical) of harvest and inventory data. Information on WIMS can be found at <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/nrrdc/wims.html>.
- In addition, examples of the specific types of strategies that ERDC has developed to aid in the management of threatened and endangered species can be found in a series of species profiles located at <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/tes/tes.html>.

Benefits

The conservation and management of TES and their habitats are major issues on Corps projects and military installations throughout the United States. DOD is required by law to manage and protect these species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The protection and maintenance of natural resources on DOD real estate is essential for the continued use of these lands and waters for carrying out both Civil Works and military missions and ensuring compliance with environmental laws. Products from EL studies proactively address high priority issues associated with TES and provide resource managers with useful management tools.



Success Stories

Numerous direct-funded and reimbursable projects have been completed for Civil Works and military programs. Recent accomplishments include the completion of a

Strategic Environmental Research and Development (SERDP) study that produced a community-based regional plan for managing TES on installations in the southeastern United States. Thirty products resulted from this effort, including species profiles on 18 species, which can be accessed at <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/tes/tes.html>.

A major Corps study sponsored by the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Research Program is addressing the impacts of reservoir operations on habitats of sensitive species; 25 products have resulted from this work, including species profiles and management recommendations for over 40 species of turtles, raptors, shorebirds, songbirds, and bats. Recent reimbursable studies have included species surveys and development of management recommendations regarding TES bird and mammal species (especially neotropical migrant birds and bats) at a variety of military installations. EL also has recognized expertise in habitat assessment and management for aquatic fauna including sea turtles, salmonid fishes, sturgeons, manatees, whales, and freshwater mussels.

Point of Contact

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